

Knowing God
Lesson Five
Evangelism – Part Two

What is my testimony?

A testimony is your story of how Jesus has worked in your life. Your life may be the only Bible some people will ever read. Just as we need to lead a life that represents Christ, we also need to be able to explain what makes us different from the world and what has changed in us. Each person's story is different; the Bible commands us to be ready to give an account for the hope that is in us. "Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence;" 1 Pet 3:15b (RSV)

People can argue against Scripture or not believe the Bible but they cannot argue against an honest presentation of your story and the reality of Christ living in you and a changed life. Our initial awareness of God's work in our hearts doesn't change but our testimonies keep changing all through our lives. The truth doesn't change but as we grow as Christians our view of sin, repentance, and what we experience as we walk with Christ and become conformed to His image enlarges. "You are not just a channel through which God does something, but you are a transformed part of His eternal purpose to make you and all peoples of the world like His son for His glory." (Blackaby, Willis, 13)

There is a basic outline that is commonly used to develop a testimony. There are several parts that are necessary. The basic parts are:

- ❖ "Who was I before Christ?"
- ❖ "What was my conversion experience?" and
- ❖ "How have I changed?"

An outline is a very simple way to collect your thoughts and boil them down to a concise, coherent presentation of your story. Depending on your situation you may choose to emphasize one section or event, but having this thought out in advance helps you to give your account in a natural way. It's important to update your testimony frequently as growth progresses; there will be different significant events in your life.

Using the guidelines below, write our your testimony
(Be ready to share it.)

I. Who Was I Before Christ?

A. Did you grow up in a Christian home or with unsaved parents? What role did faith play in your background? Was it empty religion, your parent's faith or did you always believe in Jesus?

B. How did you recognize that you were a sinful person and needed Christ as your Savior? What was your personal commitment and how did it come about? It's good to have a Bible verse here that spoke to you and made you realize you were in need. I.e. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Rom 3:23(RSV)

II What Was My Conversion Experience?

A. Who and/or what was instrumental in leading you to Christ? Was there a single event that brought you to repentance, such as a speaker at camp, discussion in the car with a parent, going through your parents divorce or other tragedy? Was it a slow process of gradually understanding your relationship with God? Was there a verse that brought this home to you? I.e. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ." Rom 6:23

B. What do you see as the time of true repentance (a turning from sin) and accepting Christ as your Savior? For some who accept Christ when they are very young, that act is an act of saving grace, but maybe you didn't realize how much you sin and how much it cost Christ to forgive us. The older we get the more we realize how much we sin and how badly we need a Savior.

III. How Have I Changed?

A. Look back to, who was I?... and relate how you have changed. What difference does Christ make to how you view yourself, life or others now?

B. Most importantly how IS Christ working in your life now? How does your relationship with Christ impact you daily? How are your relationships different? How has your character changed? Accepting Christ is the first step in the process. Sanctification is the ongoing process, the fruit of our relationship with Him. Without fruit it is questionable that we are truly in relationship with Christ.